

ALTESS News

Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Enterprise Systems and Services (ALTESS) Introduces ABE Hub

Mark Ryan

Released Nov. 19, 2006, the Acquisition Business Enterprise (ABE) Hub is the first step for the Acquisition Information Management (AIM) system and Project Director (PD) ALTESS to transform to commercial-off-the-shelf enterprise resource planning solutions. The ABE Hub meets DOD and Army security requirements for single sign-on and DOD Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Common Access Card (CAC), and is aligned with the Army's business transformation goals.

The ABE Hub brings Army acquisition and program life-cycle management tools to a central location by providing Army leadership and program offices one-click access to program data and reporting. It provides the acquisition domain a vehicle to review the tools used by the Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Workforce from program executive office (PEO) to PEO via each organization's portal/tab. All tools available in the ABE Hub are accessible via Army Knowledge Online (AKO) or DOD PKI login.



Current AIM users with active AIM accounts will be migrated to the ABE Hub as long as they have an active AKO user ID and password and/or DOD PKI CAC. AIM users who do not hold either of these log-in capabilities must obtain one or the other or both prior to receiving an ABE Hub account.

The need for AIM user IDs and passwords is eliminated in the ABE Hub, conveniently providing users one less user ID and password to remember and change every 60 days.

New users to the ABE Hub submit an account request after they have logged into the ABE Hub with their AKO User ID and password or CAC. Account approval is granted from organizational-based ABE Hub account managers, who are also current AIM account managers. The ABE Hub merged users' accounts with the Oracle® Collaboration Suite 10G (document, task management and Oracle projects).

For more information, please call the ALTESS Customer Support Center at (800) 981-3234.

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Readership Survey Results

Readership Survey a Resounding Success

As many of you know, we recently conducted a readership survey to gauge the ongoing appeal of *Army AL&T* Magazine, to determine the acceptance level of recent changes to our distribution schedule, to solicit feedback on how to improve the publication and to identify topics that readers would like to see covered in 2007.

First, I would like to thank the 2,228 readers who responded to the survey. It took some time and effort to do so, and we sincerely appreciate the feedback, especially to the appeal for open-ended requests for general comments, suggestions or remarks, and for ideas regarding future articles.

Second, I want to express my gratitude for the insight, creativity and fresh perspective that each respondent brought to the table. Of the 2,081 respondents who stated that they regularly read the magazine, 91 percent rated the content of the articles as either good or excellent. While proud of that response, we did not overlook the fact that another eight percent rated the content as merely fair, and that almost one percent rated the content as poor. Nor did we fail to

recognize that even the most congratulatory respondents made substantive recommendations for how to improve the publication going forward.

My editorial team and I see it as our primary responsibility in 2007 to address as many reader concerns and recommendations as possible, and to ensure that the magazine remains informative, relevant and compelling. Given the scope of the magazine's mandate, the executive direction we receive from the Editorial Advisory Board and the variety of magazine readers who use our product, it is unlikely that we will ever meet all requirements in a single issue. Over the course of a year, however, we expect to come pretty close to meeting or exceeding most readers' expectations, so please keep coming back for more. I promise not to disappoint you!

A couple of issues reached a critical mass in reader perception. These will be the first that we address editorially:

- Differentiate more clearly between content found at <http://asc.army.mil/pubs/alt/default.cfm> and related content found elsewhere.
- Continue to communicate how individuals can receive personal subscriptions to the magazine.
- Enhance coverage of career development opportunities.
- Emphasize best business practices and leverage lessons learned — what worked and what did not.
- Incorporate end-user, from-the-field feedback and perspectives into as many stories as possible.

We also noted that, while not identified as issues, there are several areas in which we must continue to do well. These include our coverage of organizational, regulatory and strategic changes within the acquisition, logistics and technology (AL&T) community; workplace ethics; networking contacts within the organization; and training, education and professional development opportunities. Several respondents emphasized the importance of this coverage and encouraged continued or even greater attention to these topics.

You also provided us with a wealth of ideas for future content. Some of the more commonly recommended topics included:

- Anything related to new, emerging or future technologies.
- More articles on Joint AL&T programs involving the Army, our sister services and other organizations within and beyond DOD.
- Articles on Lean Six Sigma, Simplified Acquisition Procedure and other workflow project and process management tools and initiatives.

- More on medical, aviation and Corps of Engineers programs.
- More on funding, budgeting and financial management of acquisition programs, including cost/benefit analyses.
- Emergency, contingency and rapid-insertion acquisitions.
- More on streamlining contracting processes, changes to contracting and acquisition, and guidance on policy changes.
- Articles on contracting for installations and non-weapons systems.
- Articles on weapon systems, munitions and other platform technologies.
- Information technology articles, including coverage of data and information security and assurance.

Among the thousands of responses, though, was one observation that seemed to defy categorization. Perhaps that is because it managed to encompass many categories at once. In answer to the question of what you would like to see in future magazine issues, this reader encouraged us to emphasize "the relevance of the Army Acquisition Corps [AAC] to the Army." The reader went on to say that "it's inherent upon us to 'sell' the AAC to the Army so that they fully understand 'why' they need us in the fight!" This reader specified a need to promote the value of our work to the warfighters we support, to DOD as a whole, to other federal agencies and the general public. Most importantly, perhaps, we need to emphasize the importance of the work we do to ourselves.

Without ignoring several requests that we downplay the "look at me" factor and instead pursue interviews and articles that convey a more realistic perspective (a recommendation we will consider in all future reviews of articles and interviews), it remains a critical responsibility of this magazine's editorial staff to make it clear that the AAC and every member of its workforce are vital to the success of the Army's mission, both stateside and abroad, and the Army's overall transformation to a more mobile and modular force.

We will continue striving to deliver a top-quality publication every issue through fully researched, well-written, germane and informative articles, interviews, briefs and reviews. In 2007, we pledge to raise the bar even farther through execution of the constructive recommendations that we have received through this survey. Again, my thanks to every reader who responded, and to all readers who look to this magazine for pertinent, compelling information and dialog.

Michael Roddin
Editor-in-Chief